



## ‘Counselor Connection’ to go to online distribution only

To help reduce the number of paper documents that counselors must keep up with, future editions of the *Counselor Connection* will be distributed online. When the latest edition is posted at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com), counselors who join the listserv will receive an e-mail with a direct link to the *Counselor Connection*. All guidance counselors are encouraged to sign up today to continue receiving important college planning and student financial aid information. E-mail addresses may be provided by e-mailing [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com) or calling 502.696.7381.

## Alabama residents can save thousands with college loan program

Alabama residents may be able to save thousands of dollars on federal student loans by getting them from the Alabama College Loan Program.

The Alabama College Loan Program serves undergraduates and their parents, as well as graduate students. There are also special benefits for teachers, nurses and National Guard members.

For students who borrow Federal Stafford Loans, the Alabama College Loan Program pays the origination fee and the federal default fee, giving borrowers more money when they need it most. The Alabama College Loan Program gives borrowers of Federal PLUS Loans for parents of undergraduate students and Grad PLUS Loans for graduate students a 2 percent interest rate reduction after the loans are fully disbursed.

Alabama College Loan Program’s Stafford, Parent PLUS and Grad PLUS borrowers can also qualify for a 5 percent reduction to the original principal after making 30 on-time payments, saving them even more money during repayment. Borrowers can save another 0.25 percent by having payments taken directly out of their bank accounts.

The Alabama College Loan Program will provide interest forgiveness for Stafford and Grad PLUS Loans to:

- Teachers who hold valid teaching certificates issued by the Alabama State Department of Education and who show proof that they were full-time teachers in Alabama public elementary and secondary schools for the prior year.
- Nurses who hold valid nursing licenses issued by the Alabama Board of Nursing and who show proof that they have worked as full-time nurses in Alabama for 12 consecutive months.
- Members of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard called to active duty on or after September 12, 2001, and who served in good standing while activated. Guard members qualify for interest-forgiveness loans while in the Guard and for 30 years after they leave the service. Their dependents under age 24 are eligible for the interest-forgiveness benefit, and their spouses can also qualify for interest-forgiveness student loans as long as the marital relationship is intact.

For more information about the Alabama College Loan Program (Lender Code 834281), call 888.678.4625 or visit [www.alabamacollegeloanprogram.com](http://www.alabamacollegeloanprogram.com).





## School visits currently being made

Jeff Golden, outreach counselor for KHEAA–Alabama, is making visits to all of the public high schools around the state.

If you have an event scheduled that Jeff could help with by presenting college planning or financial aid information to students, parents, or guidance counselors, please contact him by phone 334.265.9720, fax 334.265.9750, or e-mail [jgolden@kheslc.com](mailto:jgolden@kheslc.com).



## Getting In still available

We still have copies of the 2007–2008 edition of *Getting In* available. For additional copies please contact Tonya Sexton at KHEAA–Alabama, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3762, phone 800.721.9720, fax 334.265.9750, e-mail [tsexton@kheaa.com](mailto:tsexton@kheaa.com). We will send them out until the supply is gone.



## AlabamaMentor.org provides free college planning info

AlabamaMentor.org is a one-stop site students can begin using as eighth-graders to research colleges and careers. The site contains sections on planning for college, selecting a school, paying for college and choosing a career. Students can also set up free accounts that will let them apply to colleges online.

Haven't picked out a college? There's a search function that can match schools to the students' choice of a major, school size and other factors. Students will also find a comparison chart of Alabama colleges that shows enrollment, student to faculty ratios, costs and other factors. In addition, Alabama Mentor lets users search up to 10 individual colleges' websites at a time.

Need money for college? Alabama Mentor offers free scholarship searches to find financial aid programs that match students' interests, abilities and backgrounds.

College still a few years away? The college planning section of Alabama Mentor has checklists that show students in grades 8 through 12 what they need to be doing to prepare for college. Starting with their junior year, Alabama Mentor provides a month-by-month list of actions college-bound students should take. The college planning section also lets students who have set up their free accounts keep track of their courses and grades as they go through their high school years.

AlabamaMentor.org includes a résumé builder and video clips. Users can access the résumé builder through the Career Center and through MyMentor. The résumé builder lets users create and print their own résumé, which can be automatically saved in MyMentor and changed as needed.

Users of AlabamaMentor.org can access about 500 video clips in the Career Center module. Students, adult learners, parents, counselors and others in the educational community can view these video clips to receive detailed information about a particular career in the Career Center. The videos are also available in Spanish. To view the video clips, just go to the Career Center and click on either the List of Careers by Clusters or the Alphabetical List of Careers.

For more information about financial aid and college planning, visit [www.AlabamaMentor.org](http://www.AlabamaMentor.org); write KHEAA–Alabama, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334.265.9720, toll free 800.721.9720.

